



CHAPTER NEWS

www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/michigan

Inside this issue:

- 2 A Look Back on 2023
- 3 A Look Back on 2023 (Cont.)
- 4 MDOT TRAC Program STEM Goes Red
- Upcoming Events
- 5 Get Involved WTS History
- 6 Corporate Sponsors

Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

Happy New Year! As we move into 2024, WTS Michigan is building on the momentum of 2023 to deliver value to our members while pursuing the WTS mission of advancing women in transportation. We could not have achieved the success of 2023 without extensive participation from our committee chairs, members, and sponsors. While our board of directors provides strategic and policy direction, our committees do the heavy lifting collaborating with our sponsors to make things happen. As a volunteer organization, our success relies on trust, cooperation, and commitment to reach our goals to deliver services, programs, and support women in transportation. In recognition of their efforts and the essential support of corporate sponsors the WTS Michigan Chapter extends an abundance of appreciation for contributing to our 2023 success.

Increasing membership among a variety of transportation related professions and across the geography of Michigan is still a priority for the chapter and fuels added opportunities for the growth and development of women in transportation. Supplying broad programming options from networking to education to professional development and scholarships ensures a strong and sustainable organization. Scholarship awards for students in two-and four-year institutions and recognition awards for leaders, companies and projects are highlights of the year at the annual dinner. These celebrations show and recognize our dedication for building and supporting the transportation career pipeline for women. And corporate sponsors generously supply the financial foundation for achieving continued success.

We are excited about the [programs and activities](#) planned for the upcoming year. 2024 is also an election year for the WTS Michigan Board of Directors and Committee Chairperson positions-creating leadership opportunities for our members as well as fresh outlooks for future initiatives. Please reach out to our [chapter](#) if you are interested in volunteering for a role on the board of directors or one of our committees.

[WTS membership](#) benefits extend beyond Michigan and are a direct pathway for connecting to other women in transportation professions across the country. WTS International and the WTS Foundation Board leaders are industry leaders who drive the organization's mission vision and values and provide resources for WTS to speak with one voice across the 70 chapters and 9,000 members. While there are no requirements for taking part in conferences, international events or committees, the return measured by increasing professional relationships and gaining more knowledge about the transportation profession has long term career rewards.

I hope to see you this year!

Theresa Petko, President

<p>GOLF OUTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 GOLFERS • \$6,090 RAISED 	<p>WTS MICHIGAN: YEAR IN REVIEW</p> 	
	<p>45% MEMBERSHIP INCREASE</p> <p>TOTAL: 49 --> 73 STUDENTS: 4 --> 11</p>	<p>13 EVENTS</p>
<p>SEE YOU IN 2024</p>	<p>AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS</p> <p>FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$7,000</p> <p>GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUTE</p>	<p>SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS BANQUET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102 REGISTERED • \$2,190 RAISED (AUCTION)






 Connect with WTS Michigan on social media to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities.

A LOOK BACK ON 2023!

Happy New Year! Thank you for partnering alongside WTS for our many events over the past year. Events over the past year have been a mix of yearly favorites and unique learning and social opportunities including the annual golf outing, curling, the scholarship banquet, and tours of the Blue Water Bridge and the Gordie Howe Bridge. Here is a look back at 2023, we hope to see you in 2024!



A LOOK BACK ON 2023 (CONT.)



MDOT TRAC PROGRAM



TRAC PROGRAM MANAGER
LAURA BENSINGER

Laura Bensinger is the new TRAC (Transportation & Civil Engineering) program manager at MDOT as of end of June 2023. MDOT is assessing the current program while continuing each aspect: the bridge build competition, the internship program, and STEM outreach modules for teachers. Some of the ways that you could support the program include being trained in the modules, outreach, monetary donations/sponsorship, offering internship opportunities or partnering, or mentoring. If you would like to be involved with any aspect of the program, please reach out to Laura at 517-242-7995 or Bensingerl1@michigan.gov.



AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION GO RED FOR WOMEN 2ND ANNUAL STEM GOES RED EVENT

WTS members participated in the STEM Goes Red event at Davenport University. Groups of students rotated through three (3) breakout sessions including engineering, medical, and finance pathways. A speed mentoring session was also available for students to be able to ask further questions about careers they were interested in.



Upcoming Events

01/31/24— Virtual Book Club

Join WTS as we read “The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the fight for Women in Science” by Kate Zernike. The virtual book club will take place from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. For more information please click here: [January Virtual Book Club](#).

02/07/24—MDOT’s Ancillary Structures Program (Virtual Lunch and Learn)

Michelle O’Neill from MDOT’s BOBS will lead us in an overview of MDOT’s Ancillary Structures Program. PDH’s will be provided. Registration will be available closer to the event.

March 2024—Annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet

WTS MI will host their annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet to honor individuals and students who embody the values of WTS and champion women in the transportation industry. Be on the lookout for more invitation regarding the date and the venue. Sponsorship opportunities will be available.

03/20/24— Virtual Book Club

Join WTS as we read “Quiet Voice, Fearless Leader: 10 Principles for Introverts to Awaken the Leader Inside” by Terrance Daryl Lee. The virtual book club will take place from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. For more information please click here: [March Virtual Book Club](#).

April 2024—Top Golf and Networking

Back by popular demand! WTS MI will once again host a night of golf and networking at Top Golf in Auburn Hills. Exact date to be determined.

May 2024—Tour of Northern Concrete Pipe’s Facilities (Detroit, Lansing, & Grand Rapids)

Come tour Northern Concrete Pipe’s fabrication plants with WTS MI. PDH’s will be provided. Official date to be determined.

Get Involved with WTS

WTS Michigan has a variety of committees for members who are interested in getting more involved in the chapter. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact our chapter president Theresa Petko, petkotheresa@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with the committee chair.

There are opportunities available to serve on the following committees.

Membership:

Recruit and retain chapter members.

Scholarship:

Organizes fundraising events and the award of multiple undergraduate and graduate scholarships to help female candidates achieve their goals as a transportation professional.

Programs:

Plan WTS Michigan Chapter events.

Communications:

Facilitates communication with members and friends of WTS through newsletters, social media and the chapter website.

Mentoring/Diversity:

Works to advance the WTS vision for equity and access for women in transportation.

Chapter History

WTS Michigan was founded in 1998 to support the advancement of women in Michigan’s transportation industry. The Michigan Chapter is a dynamic and interdisciplinary group of professionals committed to transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women. We actively support our future colleagues and introduce students to a broad variety of transportation-related careers.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

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